



Whip Round Up

From the Office of the Assistant Democratic Leader



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Reid for Nevada

Top Reid Aide to be Nominated to NRC

- Senator Harry Reid's chief advisor on nuclear power, Dr. Gregory Jaczko, is set to be nominated by the White House to serve on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. He will work to protect public health and safety, promote defense and security, and protect the environment.

Working with Nevadans

- Congressional Youth Leadership Council students Aaron Theis and Katie Serrano met with Senator Reid during their visit to Washington, DC.
- Students from Centennial High School visited with Senator Reid as part of the Close-up program.

Reid Travels to Nevada

- Senator Reid will be working in Nevada this week while the Senate is in recess. He will meet with veterans, senior citizens, firefighters and other groups, and will address the Las Vegas League of Women Voters on the issue of health care.



Reid's Words

The Medicare bill that President Bush signed last year does nothing to curb runaway drug costs. Instead of working to fix this problem, the Administration is spending \$22 million on a publicity campaign about the bill. We should use that money for better health care, not misleading TV ads.



Students from Centennial High School in Las Vegas visit with Senator Reid during their visit to Washington D.C. as part of the Close-Up program.

Week in Review

- **Transportation Bill Passes** - Despite veto threats by the White House, the Senate on Thursday passed a \$318 billion surface transportation bill by a vote of 76 to 21. The House version of the bill stands at \$375 billion, some \$122 billion more than the White House's preferred number. Negotiations on how to bridge the differences with the House and the Administration will continue over the coming weeks.
- **Veterans Panel Issues Report** - A federal commission deciding the fate of veterans medical facilities across the country issued its long-awaited report on Friday, and all but assured southern Nevadans the construction of a new veterans medical center, long-term seniors center and outpatient clinic. A complete copy of the panel's report can be found at: www.carescommission.va.gov
- **Prisoners of War Continue to Fight** - American prisoners of war who were brutally tortured by Saddam Hussein during the first Gulf War continued to press their case for just compensation from the assets of the former Iraqi regime. Meeting with lawmakers this week, the POWs recounted the latest attempts by the U. S. Justice Department to have the lawful judgment obtained by the soldiers thrown out. Shocked lawmakers filed an amicus brief with a federal appeals court to uphold the rights of U.S. prisoners of war and all Americans victimized by terror. A complete account of the POWs' case can be found at: www.stoppowtorture.org
- **Marketing Blitz For Medicare Bill** - Concerns about the President's Medicare bill continued to build this week after it was disclosed that the Administration is conducting a \$22 billion marketing campaign, including TV ads, to counter negative public opinion about the measure. Just a few weeks ago the Administration revealed that the bill will cost at least one-third more than the original \$400 billion price tag.

INSIDER'S CALENDAR

- The Senate is in recess next week following the President's Day holiday.
- The Senate will convene on Monday, February 23 at 12:00 noon. At that time Senator John Breaux (D-LA) will be recognized to deliver George Washington's Farewell Address.
- Following the address, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2061, the Medical Malpractice bill.
- No roll call votes will occur on February 23.
- Cloture was filed on the motion to proceed to the Medical Malpractice bill. This vote will occur on Tuesday, February 24, at 5:00 p.m.